

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OPORTO 00117 041033Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-13 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /105 W

-----016730 041312Z /42

R 031430Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL OPORTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1094
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OPORTO 0117

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: MAY DAY IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL

REF: LISBON 3208

1. LARGE TURN-OUT IN OPORTO. MAY DAY WAS CELEBRATED IN MAJOR CITIES THROUGHOUT THE NORTH WITH WELL ORCHESTRATED SPEAKERS, MARCHES AND RALLIES. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MEMORY THERE WAS EVEN A MAY DAY CELEBRATION IN REMOTE NORTH EAST DISTRICT CAPITAL OF BRAGANCA. PRESS REPORTED NO INCIDENTS. OPORTO RALLY WAS THE BIGGEST SINCE MAY DAY 1974 AIDED BY SUNNY SKIES AND HEAVY BUSING COMPLIMENTS OF PCP/INTERSINDICAL. RALLY ORGANIZERS CLAIM 300,000 PARTICIPANTS. AMCONSUL OBSERVERS ESTIMATE IN EXCESS OF 30,000.

2. PROMOTE THE PARTY LINE. 56 LOCAL UNIONS OFFICIALLY SUPPORTED OPORTO MAY DAY CELEBRATION OF WHICH 24 WERE REPORTEDLY NOT CGTP-INTERSINDICAL AFFILIATED. CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF SOCIALISTS WEARING LAPEL SYMBOLS JOINED COMMUNISTS, ULTRA-LEFT AND LOW INCOME WORKING CLASS IN LARGE TURN-OUT. SPEAKERS PRESENTED SOLID PCP/INTERSINDICAL LINE INTER ALIA
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PAGE 02 OPORTO 00117 041033Z

CRITICIZING PS/CDS GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND "IMPERIALISTIC IMPOSITIONS" OF THE IMF. UNION MOVEMENTS RIVALING THE INTER-SINDICAL WERE DENOUNCED AS "YELLOW UNIONS" I. E. TRAITORS.

3. COMMENT. AS REPORTED REFTEL, PCP/INTERSINDICAL DOMINATED MAY DAY ORGANIZATION. OPORTO CELEBRATION WAS TURNED INTO PROTEST AGAINST RISING COST OF LIVING. SPEECHES AND SLOGANS

LINKED FIGHT FOR IMPROVED WORKERS' CONDITIONS WITH STRUGGLE
IN DEFENCE OF THE CONSTITUTION AGAINST "FASCISTS AND
REACTIONARIES. PENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, MAY DAY, LABOR DAY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OPORTO00117
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780190-0793
Format: TEL
From: OPORTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780597/aaaadfdh.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 553223a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LISBON 3208
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2804757
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY DAY IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/553223a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014